

Public Sector

S A F E T Y R E P O R T

Abatement Verification Required

Maine Public Sector workplaces cited for violations of occupational safety and health standards must submit documentation that the required hazard abatement has been completed.

Citations for Public Sector Workplaces

The most common citations issued between October 1 and December 31, 2000 involved:

1. Respiratory protection;
2. Required records for training on bloodborne pathogens, hazard communications, and confined space entry;
3. Electrical hazards, especially ungrounded appliances and frayed wires;
4. Broken welder leads; and
5. Machine guarding.

Personal Protective Equipment for Fire Fighters

On December 17, 2000, the Maine Board of Occupational Safety and Health issued the following interpretations regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) for the Fire Service in Maine.

- Eye Protection - Eye protection purchased after July 5, 1994 shall comply with American Standard National Institute (ANSI) Z87.1 - 1989.
- Face Protection - Face protection purchased after July 5, 1994 shall comply with ANSI Z87.1 - 1989.
- Interior Fire Suppression - Eye and face protection are required. This can be achieved by wearing the SCBA mask.

NOTE: Safety glasses or goggles are not required when wearing a face shield that complies with ANSI Z87.1.

- Other Fire Fighting Functions

- The Incident Commander must determine what PPE is necessary during other fire fighting operations such as Overhaul. The Incident Commander may require eye protection only. This protection may be accomplished by wearing safety glasses or goggles meeting ANSI standard Z87.1.

NOTE: Any eye or face protection which does not meet ANSI standard Z87.1 will not be considered proper personal protection if eye and/or face protection is required.

Important Notice to Users of U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Emergency Response Guide

Page 360 of the printed version of the U.S. DOT Emergency Response Guide (ERG) contains an error. The table of water-reactive materials which produce toxic gases (green-bordered pages) lists the wrong guide for dimethyldichlorosilane (ID# 1162). The correct guide for this material is 155. It is correctly listed in the ID number index (yellow-bordered pages, page 29) and the name of material index (blue bordered pages, page 130). This changes the category from substance-toxic (noncombustible) to substance-toxic and/or corrosive (flammable/water sensitive). The correction has been made to the internet version of the ERG on U.S. DOT's Office of Hazardous Materials Safety website: <http://Hazmat.dot.gov/guidebook.htm>.

Please disseminate this information to as many users of the ERG as possible. This could include fire service, law enforcement, emergency medical services, public works, and others.

Regulations and compliance assistance for Maine public sector workplaces can be found on the internet at <http://janus.state.me.us/labor/bls/newpsw.htm>

Return Service Requested

MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF
LABOR
Public Sector Enforcement

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The Public Sector Safety Report is issued quarterly to inform public sector employers and employees on safety and health enforcement issues. Published by the Maine Department of Labor, the compliance and enforcement agency for occupational safety and health regulations for public sector workplaces in Maine.

Please post this Report to share the information with employees.

To be added to the mailing list, or to make address corrections, send information to *Public Sector Safety Report*, MDOL, 45 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0045, fax to (207) 624-6449 or e-mail at webmaster_bls@state.me.us. TTY 1-800-794-1110.